

Montana

School Nutrition Programs

Office of Public Instruction

Division of Health Enhancement and Safety

2008 Annual Report

(July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008)



Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501
In-State Toll-Free 1-888-231-9393, Local (406) 444-3095
www.opi.mt.gov



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School Nutrition Programs Staff

Office of Public Instruction



Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
www.opi.mt.gov

Christine Emerson, M.S., R.D., School Nutrition Programs Director, (406) 444-2502

Sofia Janik, Program Officer-Accountant, (406) 444-2521

Kenadine Johnson, Cooperative Purchase Coordinator, (406) 444-4412

Teresa Motlas, M.S., R.D., School Nutrition Programs Specialist, (406) 444-3532

Brenda Peppers, School Nutrition Programs Specialist, (406) 444-4413

Judy Wilson, Food Distribution Coordinator, (406) 444-4415

Alison Wolf, Administrative Assistant, (406) 444-2501

Montana State University/Team Nutrition



Katie Bark, R.D., Nutrition Education Specialist, (406) 994-5641

Amy Guza, R.D., Nutrition Consultant, (406) 994-5641

Mary Stein, Nutrition Consultant, (406) 994-5641

Molly Stenberg, R.D., Nutrition Consultant, (406) 994-7217

School Nutrition Programs

The School Nutrition Programs (SNP) unit is administered by the Office of Public Instruction, Health Enhancement and Safety Division. The SNP services for schools include administration of the seven U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and the Cooperative Purchase Program.

SNP reimburses schools for meals served to children; distributes donated (commodity) foods; provides training for school food service personnel, administrators and teachers; ensures schools are in compliance with federal regulations; and provides nutrition education for students to promote healthful habits.

In school year 2007-08, 276 Montana School Food Authorities participated in at least one of the following programs. Programs administered by Montana SNP include:

- ✓ National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- ✓ School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- ✓ Afterschool Snack Program
- ✓ Special Milk Program
- ✓ Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- ✓ USDA Food Distribution Program (including the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program)
- ✓ Montana Team Nutrition Program
- ✓ Office of Public Instruction Cooperative Purchase Program

Sponsors choose which programs, if any, to participate in based on local needs. Public schools, private/nonpublic schools and nonprofit residential child care institutions with children high school age or under, camps, nonprofit private organizations and governmental agencies may participate in the programs.

Montana SNP Vision:

Our vision is school communities that provide children full access to healthful meals and snacks that nourish minds and bodies and school nutrition environments that encourage healthful lifestyles and are supported by community partnerships.

Montana SNP Mission:

To ensure that schools provide nutritious meals and promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative education and training, and administration of the USDA's School Nutrition Programs.



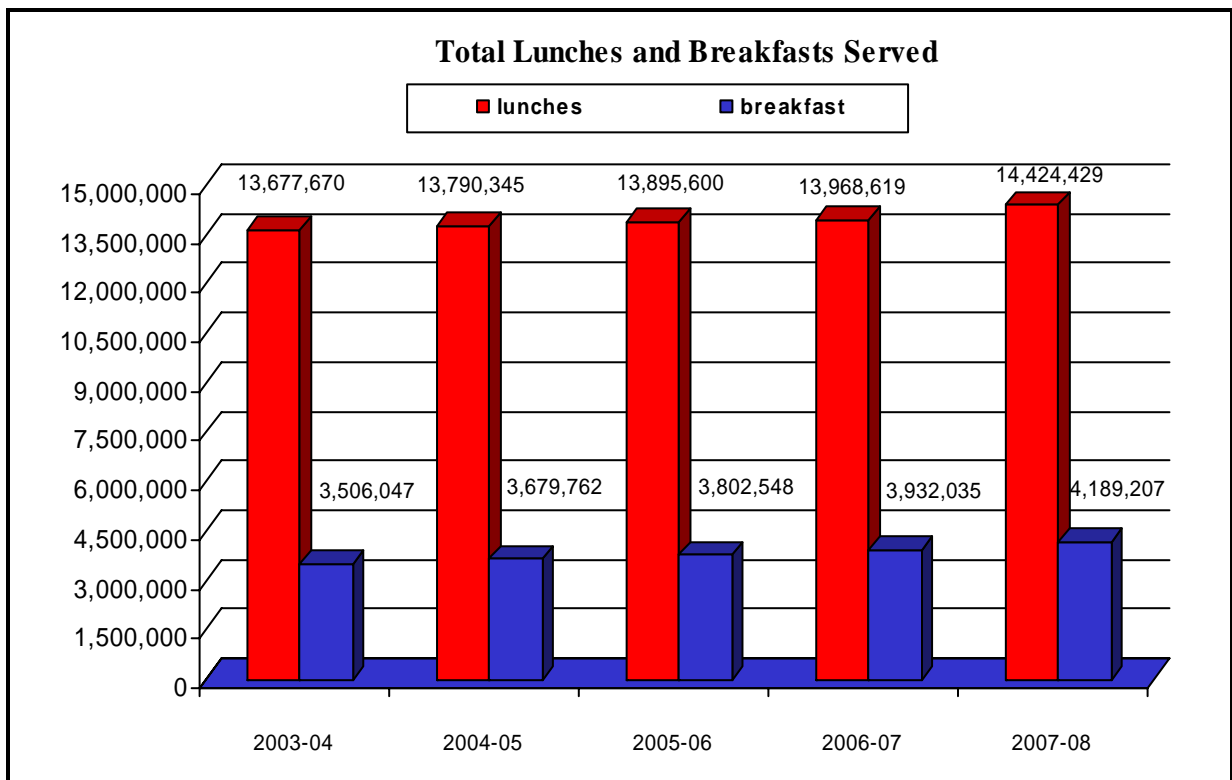
School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) began in 1946 under the National School Lunch Act and is intended to help meet the nutrition needs of children from low-income households.

Lunches served to children under this program are required to meet one-third of the total Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for key nutrients (**minimum** requirements are set for calories, protein, calcium, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and iron; **maximum** requirements are set for total fat and saturated fat).

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) began as a pilot project in 1966 and was made permanent in 1975. Breakfasts served under this program are designed to meet one-fourth of the RDA for the key nutrients.

Many school meals are served to children eligible for free or reduced-price meals. These children come from low-income families who are most at risk for hunger and food insecurity. *Combined, a school breakfast and lunch provide over half the nutrition that a child needs in a day.*



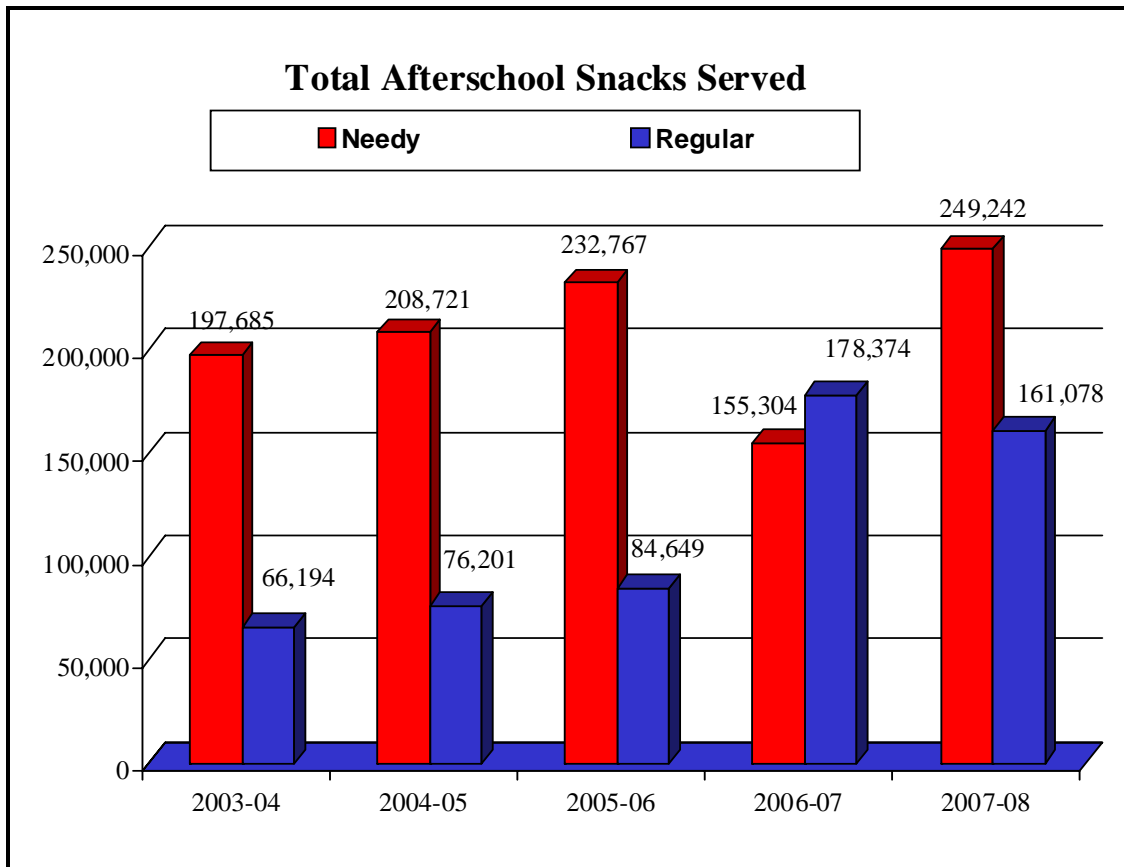
Over the past year:

- *There was an increase of 455,810 lunch meals served.*
- *There was an increase of 257,172 breakfast meals served.*



Afterschool Snack Program

Started in 1998, the Afterschool Snack Program offers children education and enrichment activities that are safe, fun and filled with learning opportunities. Schools in which 50% of the students qualify for free and reduced price lunches are considered area eligible and students qualify for needy (free) snacks.



Over the past year:

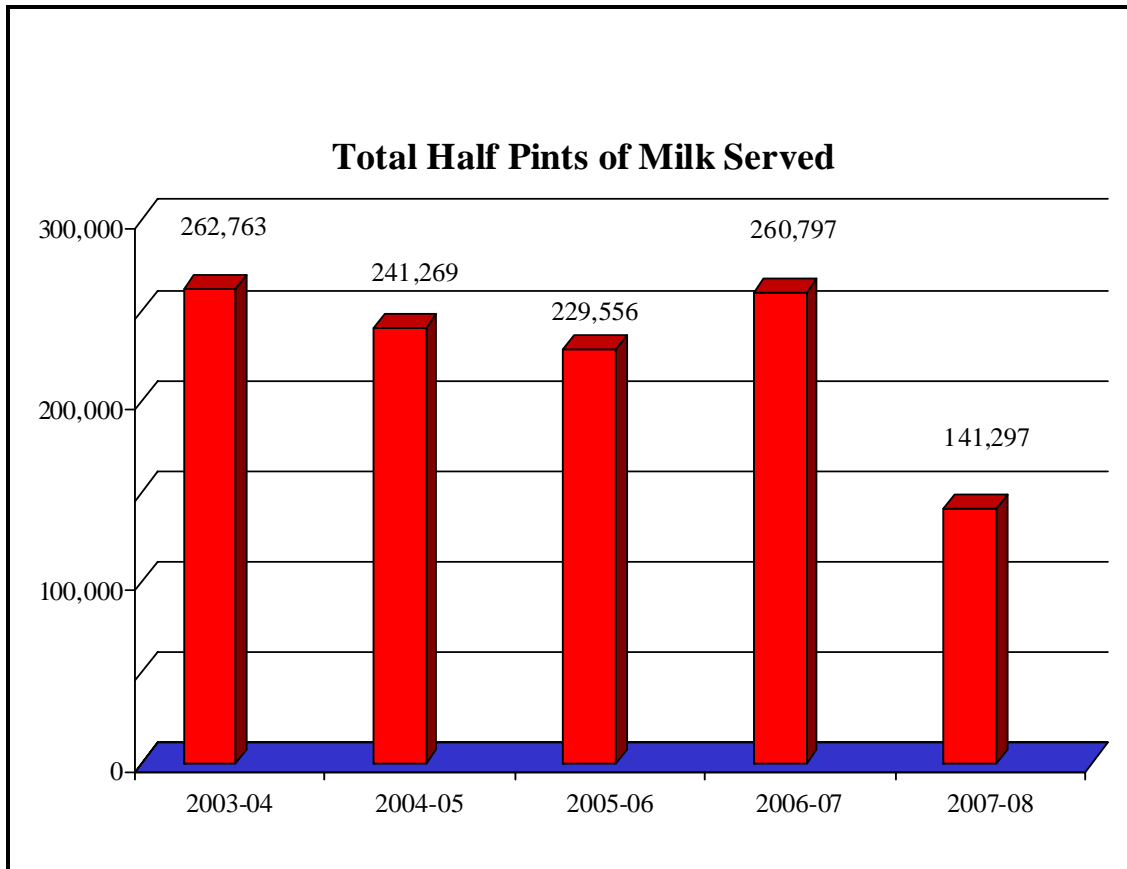
- *There was an increase of 76,642 snacks served.*



Special Milk Program

Schools that do not provide other school meal programs may participate in the Special Milk Program. This program was also for split-session pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students who did not have access to lunch and breakfast at school. But with schools implementing a full day kindergarten, these students now have access to the lunch, breakfast and snack programs.

Thus, we have had a decrease in the number of half-pints served.



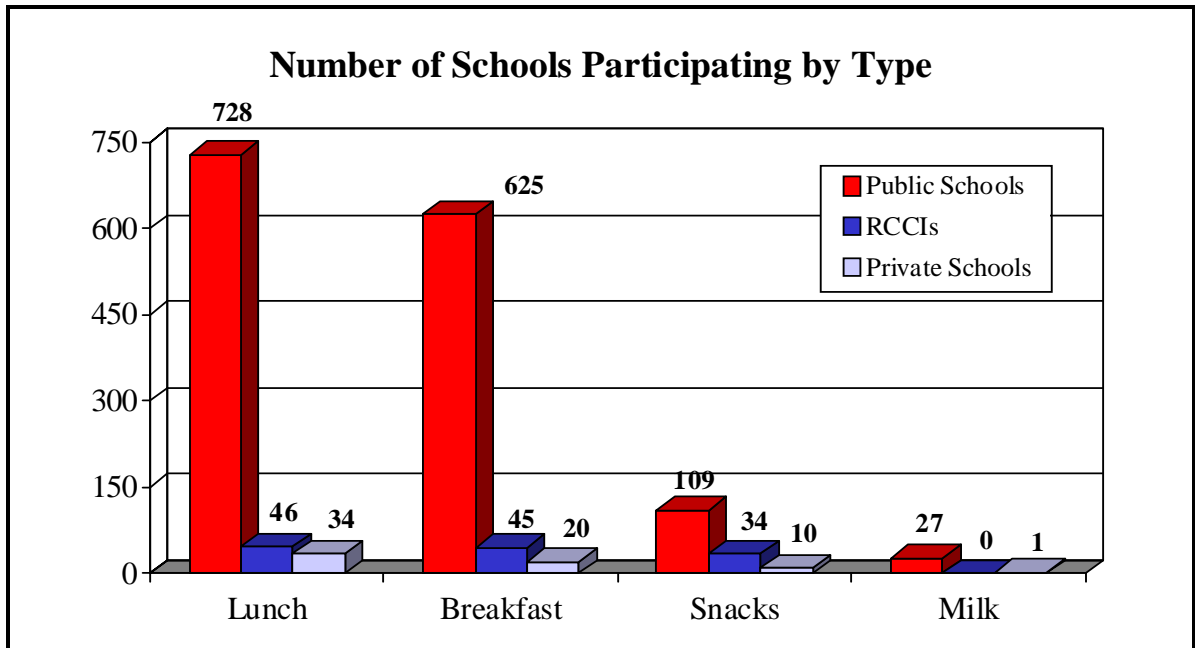
Over the past year:

- *There was a decrease of 119,500 half-pints of milk served*



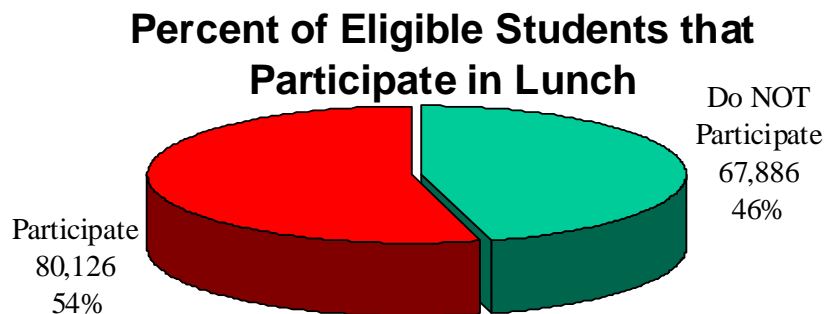
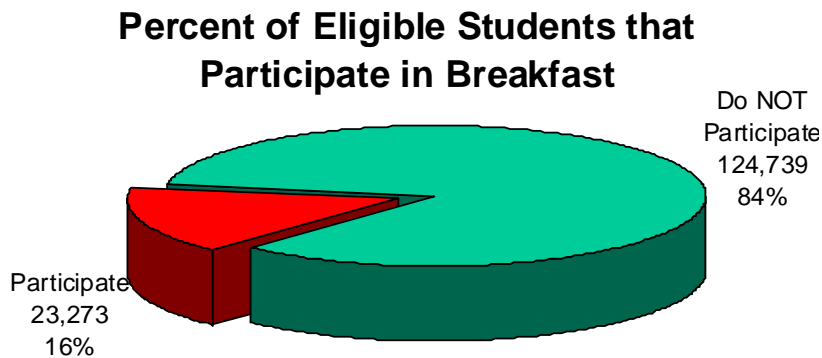
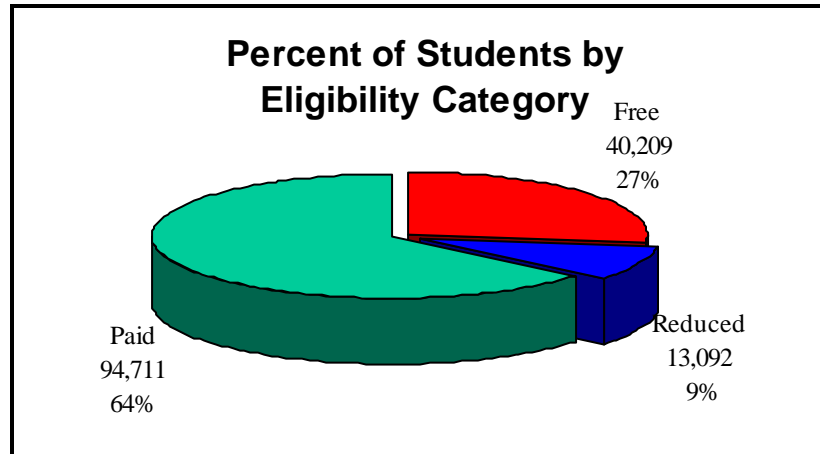
Types of Schools Participating

In Montana, public schools, public or nonprofit private Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs), and nonprofit private schools participate in the School Nutrition Programs. All of these organizations are collectively called “School Food Authorities” (SFAs) within the School Nutrition Programs. An RCCI can include correctional facilities or group homes for children with special needs. This chart details the types of schools (within the SFAs) that participate.



Participation in the Programs

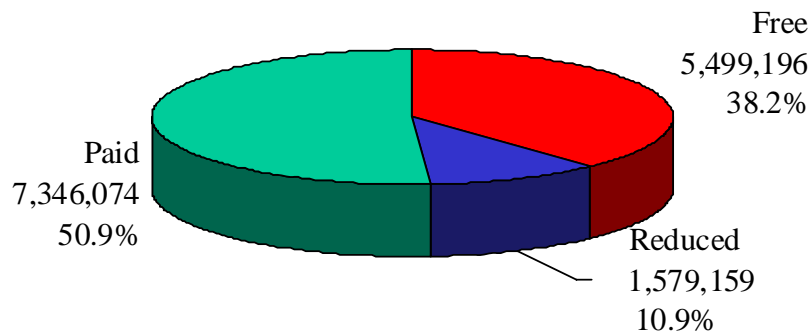
In Montana, of the 148,012 students enrolled in schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs; 40,209 were eligible for free meals, 13,092 were eligible for reduced-price meals, and 94,711 were eligible for paid meals. In the 2007-08 school year, 80,126 of the total eligible students participated daily in the National School Lunch Program. During the same period, 23,273 of the total eligible students participated daily in the School Breakfast Program. This was an increase of 1,624 students eating breakfast each day.



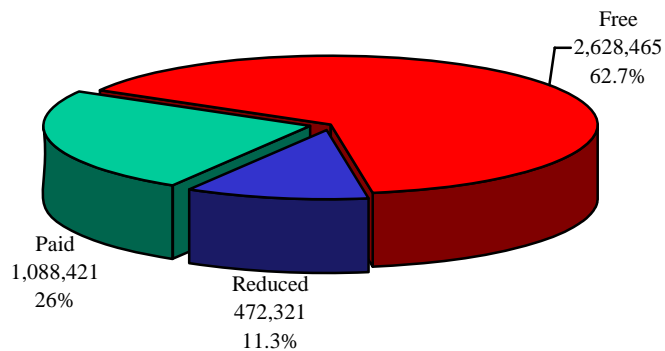
Eligibility of Students

Of those that participate in lunch and breakfast, participants are predominately eligible for free and reduced-price meals. During the 2008 school year, there was a total of 14,424,429 lunch meals served, 4,189,207 breakfast meals served, and 410,320 snacks served.

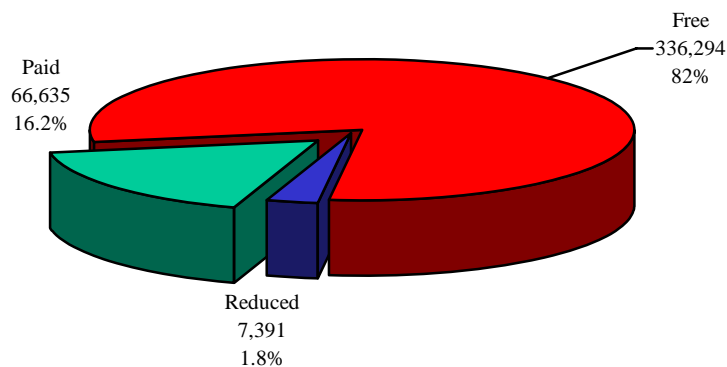
Student Lunches by Category



Student Breakfasts by Category



Student Snacks by Category





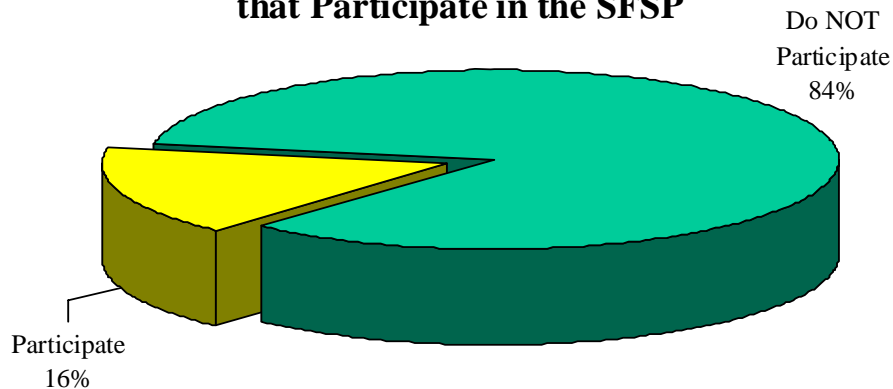
Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides nutritious meals at no charge to children while school is not in session. This program was established to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals in between school sessions.

Montana is dotted with small rural communities, making it difficult to reach children in need with the SFSP. In spite of this difficulty, however, there are sponsors and sites in low-income areas in each of the six large cities and on each of the seven American Indian reservations throughout the state.

Of the 53,301 children eligible for free and reduced-price meals during the school year, only 8,644,(16 percent) participated daily in the SFSP in 2008, an increase from 2007, where 5,787 children participated. In 2008, the number of lunches served increased from 207,802 to 227,971. Breakfasts, snacks and suppers showed a similar increase.

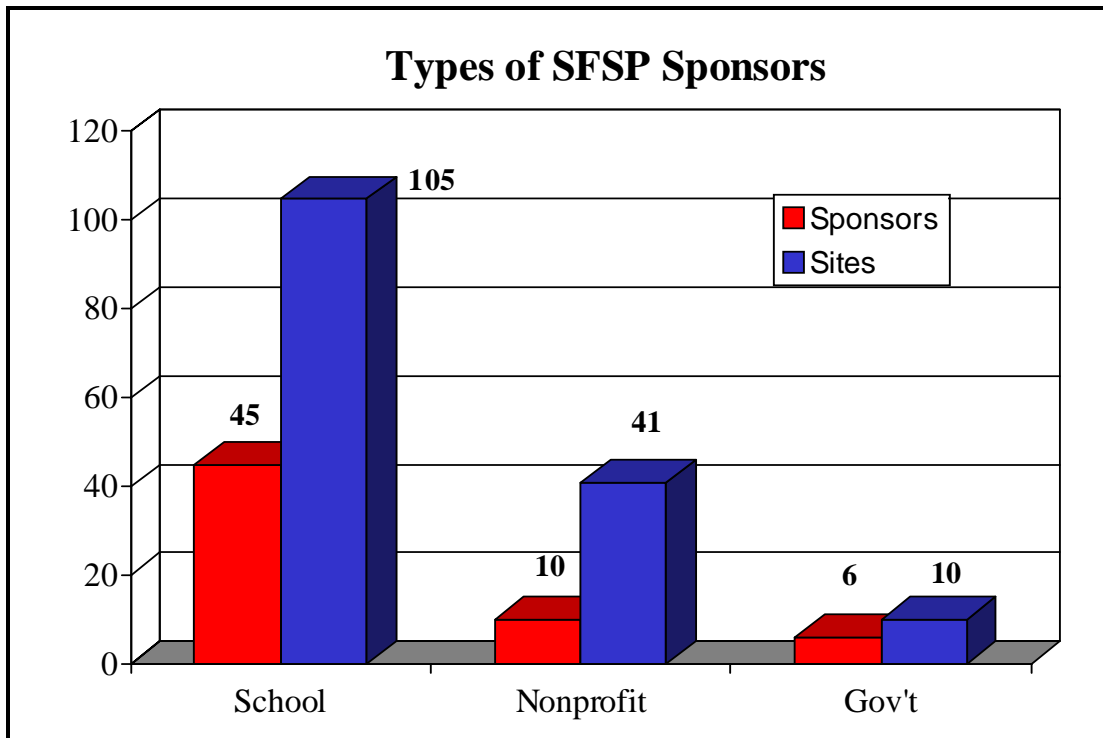
Percent of Eligible Students that Participate in the SFSP



Types of Summer Sponsors Participating

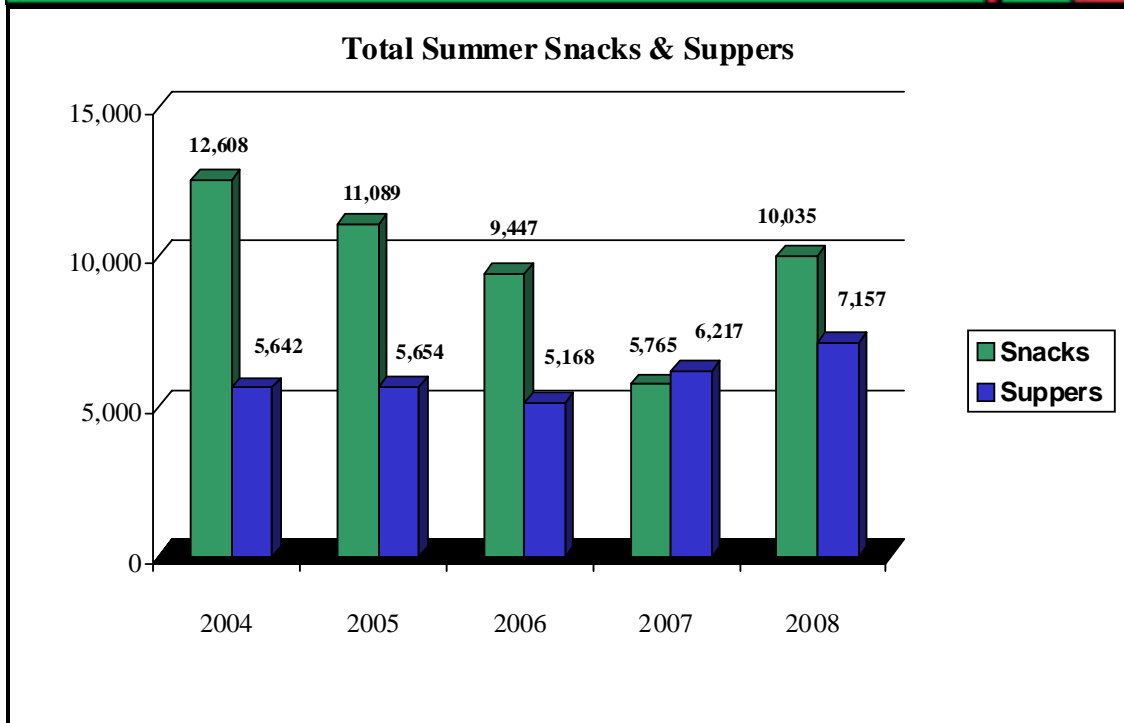
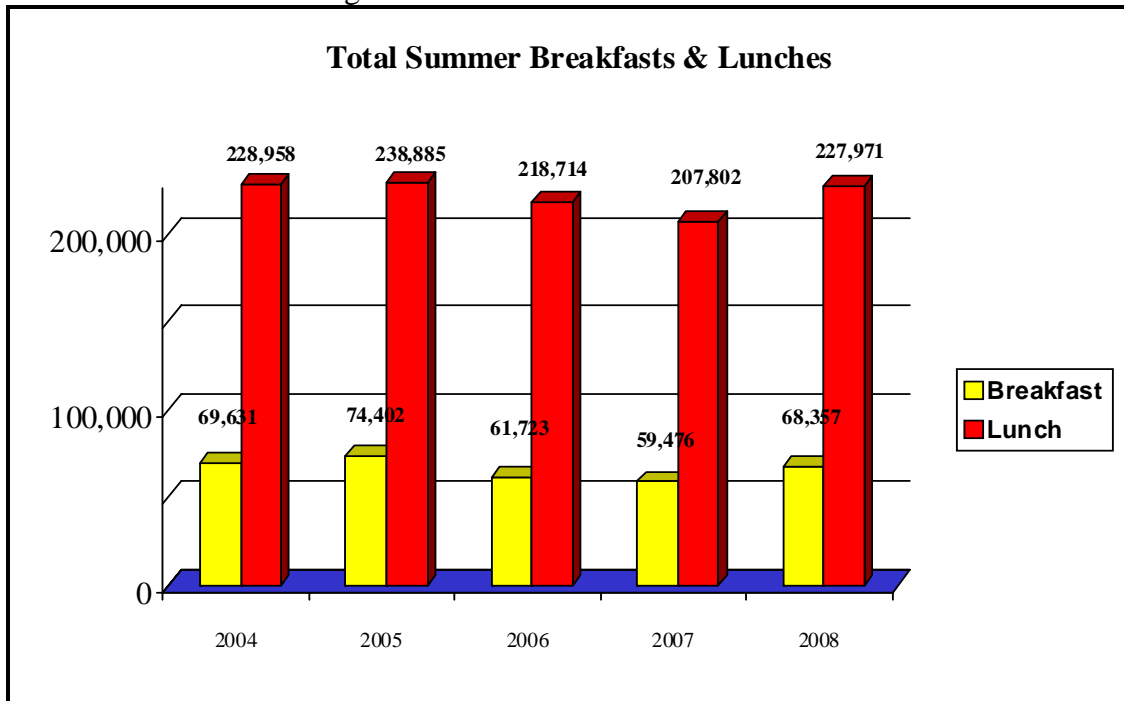


Sponsors for the SFSP include school districts, local government agencies, public or private non-profit organizations and camps. “Sponsors” are organizations that operate the SFSP, and “sites” are the total number of places that sponsors serve meals on a daily basis. A total of 61 sponsors provided meals at 156 sites in Montana during the summer of 2008. Sites operate in low-income areas where at least one half of the children come from families that qualify for free or reduced-price meals.



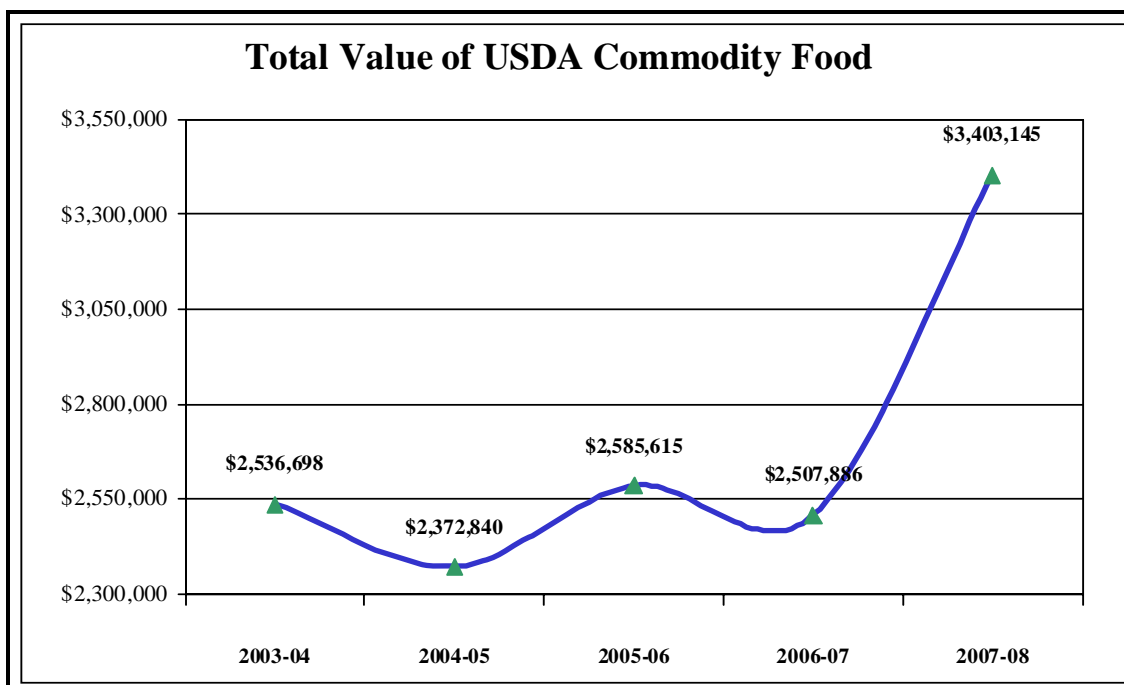
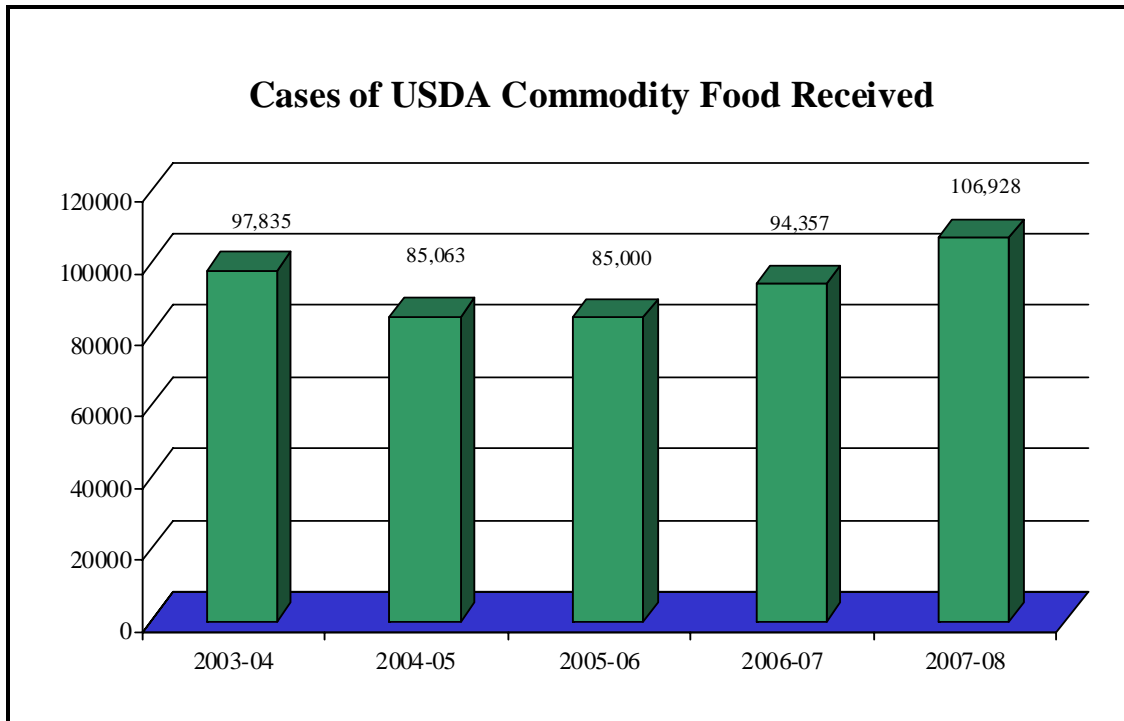
Number of Meals Served

Summer Food Service Program



USDA Food Distribution Program

The Food Distribution (Commodity) Program delivers a variety of USDA commodity foods to School Food Authorities. During the 2007-08 school year, schools received an entitlement of 20.75 cents for each lunch served (during the previous school year) to spend on commodity foods. This entitlement totaled \$3,403,145 (106,928 cases of food).

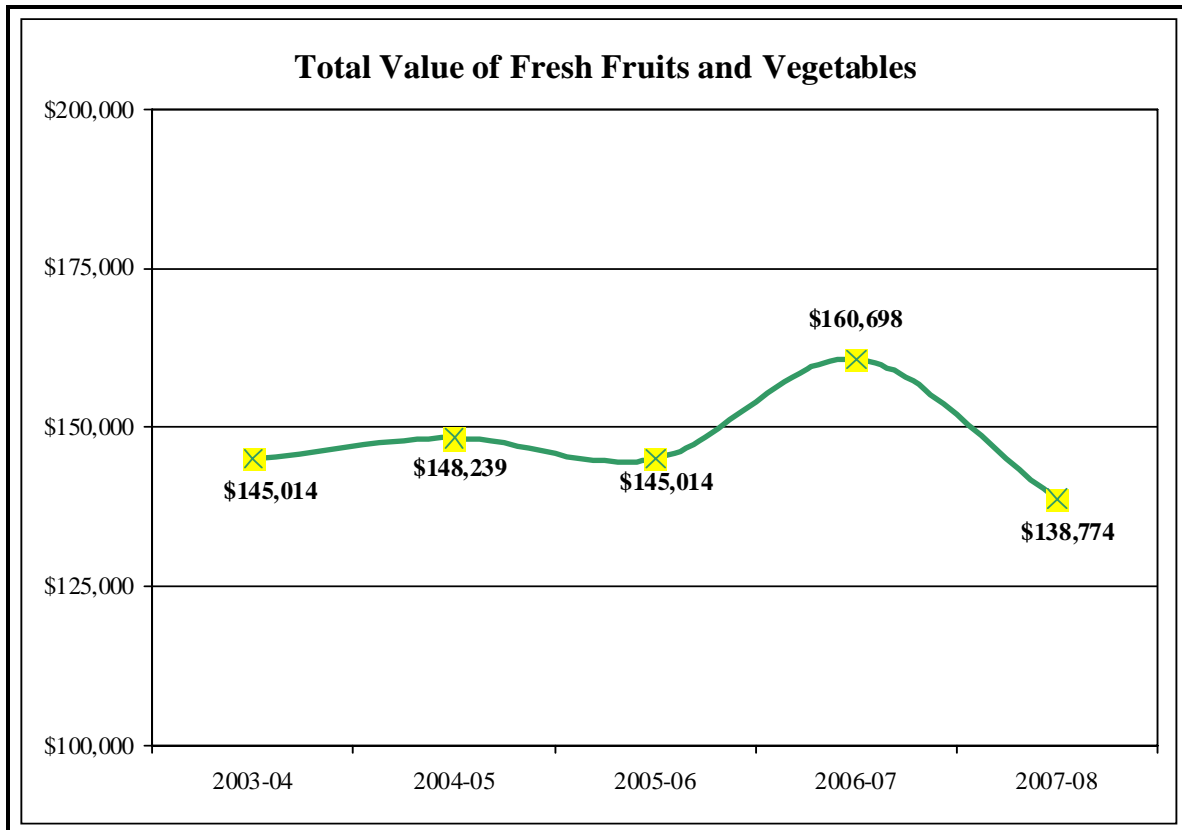




Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Department of Defense

A portion of the total entitlement for Montana's Food Distribution Program is set aside for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program is administered through the U.S. Department of Defense, and allows schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program to use the USDA commodity entitlement to purchase high quality fresh fruits and vegetables. During the 2007-08 school year, School Nutrition Programs was allocated \$138,774 for this program, compared to \$160,698 the previous year.



Program Activities

REVIEWS

Coordinated Review Effort (CRE)

The Coordinated Review Effort is a comprehensive on-site evaluation of the School Food Authority once every five years. Areas of review include (but are not limited to):

- Meal counting and claiming procedures
- Free and reduced-price meal applications
- Reporting and record-keeping
- Civil rights
- Program self-reviews
- Safety and sanitation

School Nutrition Programs staff conducted 59 coordinated reviews during the 2007-08 school year. School Food Authorities submitted corrective action plans as needed.

School Meals Initiative (SMI)

The National School Lunch Act mandates that school meals "...safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children." In 1996, the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children established nutrition standards for meals served at school.

School lunches must meet the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which specify no more than 30 percent of calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent of calories come from saturated fat. School lunches must provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C and calories. School breakfasts must provide one-fourth of the RDA for the same nutrients. Afterschool snacks must provide two food components (meat/alternate, fruit, vegetable, grain, milk).

During the 2007-08 school year, 59 School Meal Initiative Reviews were conducted. Areas reviewed included:

- Nutrient analysis of menus
- Menu requirements, variety, and appeal
- Meal production records
- Standardized recipes
- Meal service and healthy school environment
- Food safety
- Cost control

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

School Nutrition staff conducted 38 sponsor and site reviews in 2008. Sponsors who were found to be in violation of program requirements submitted corrective action plans.

SNP Activities 2007-08

(In addition to the CRE, SMI, and SFSP reviews)

School Nutrition staff provided technical assistance by telephone, e-mail, group trainings, and on-site school visits. Areas of assistance included accuracy of free and reduced-price eligibility determination and verification, correct meal counting and claiming methods, school wellness, and healthy school meals.

Group education included:

- ✓ 2 Cost Control trainings
- ✓ 5 Regional Foodservice Manager trainings
- ✓ 4 Regional Administrative trainings
- ✓ 9 Regional Summer Food Service Program Sponsor trainings
- ✓ Annual Montana School Nutrition Association/Office of Public Instruction Conference
- ✓ Administrative Update session at the annual Montana Association of School Business Officials Conference

Nutrition Education & Montana Team Nutrition



Montana State University in Bozeman, MT is home to the Montana Team Nutrition Program, which is the nutrition education component of School Nutrition Programs. Team Nutrition is an

integrated, behavior based, comprehensive program geared toward improving children's lifelong eating and physical activity habits through the principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA's My Pyramid. Team Nutrition works to improve the nutritional value of food and beverage choices throughout the school setting and to promote the health and wellness of children.

Team Nutrition receives funding through competitive USDA grants. School Nutrition Programs was awarded two Team Nutrition Training grants to support the 2007-08 school year. The grants' goals were to enhance Montana's infrastructure to promote healthful lifestyle habits for Montana families by impacting both schools and child care settings. With help from state partners, training and technical assistance, along with increased access to nutrition education resources, school personnel, childcare providers, parents and caregivers will be better equipped to teach integrated, skill-based nutrition content to children. School foodservice training efforts focused on providing safe, appealing and healthy meals and snacks, increasing breakfast program participation and reinforcing positive feeding relationships with children. Grant activities also work to build statewide support for Farm to School programs; and encourage school personnel to take the HealthierUS or Montana Menu School Challenges, and to be healthy role models.

Montana Team Nutrition Program Objectives

Reach School Food Authorities, parents and the community by:

- Increasing the number of schools and child care providers that prepare meals which are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and that meet USDA MyPyramid menu planning nutrition standards. All schools, and child care programs will be targeted through training, technical assistance, and better access to Team Nutrition resources.
- Increasing access to Team Nutrition education curricula and resources for schools and child care programs through an expanded training schedule that promotes healthy eating and physical activity to children and their families.
- Expanding the number of schools that support classroom, cafeteria and community initiatives such as the HealthierUS School Challenge and Farm to School programs.
- Increasing the number of Montana schools and childcare programs that promote positive role modeling by adults and promote the development of positive feeding relationships with children.

Montana Team Nutrition Program Activities

Activities for Planned and Completed Objectives:



- Presented at 20 national, statewide, regional or local conferences on foodservice or nutrition education topics for school or childcare personnel, reaching more than 2,000 participants and 260 School Food Authorities. Coordination with key partners is instrumental in reaching school and childcare personnel. (ongoing)
- Offered a hands-on MSU School Food Service Cooking Institute reaching 18 SFAs to support schools in healthful meal preparation and service. (August 2007)
- Maintained a School Food Service Peer Educator Network to assist school food service personnel throughout the state. The network provides peer education on best practices for serving healthy, appealing, safe meals and snacks. (ongoing)
- Developed a *Breakfast in the Classroom* pilot project in cooperation with the Western Dairy Association to work with four schools to expand breakfast service and increase participation. (July 07-ongoing).
- Developed the *Eat Smart Be Smart: Teaching Nutrition through Math, Science, Language Arts and Health Enhancement* curriculum guide to give kindergarten through fifth grade educators better access to a grade-specific nutrition education resource. (2008)
- Provided training to more than 400 school food service personnel about the HealthierUS School Challenge award program. Assisted two schools, Ponderosa in Billings and Hawthorne in Bozeman in receiving a Gold level award. (ongoing)
- Promoted the *Healthier Montana Menu Challenge Award Program*. This recognition program provides a tool for food service staff to use in planning healthful menus and receive statewide recognition for menus that meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Awarded Lone Rock School in Stevensville the first award in March 2008. (ongoing).
- In cooperation with Grow Montana Coalition, developed an action plan and identified key partners for building statewide support for Farm to School Programs. (ongoing).
- In cooperation with MSU Extension and the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Services Division, presented two train-the trainer sessions for school and childcare personnel on being a healthy role models for children. Developed and coordinated a *Healthier Montana Childcare Challenge Program* to provide motivation to childcare providers to be a healthy role model. (July 2007-June 08).
- Developed a *Eat Smart Play Hard Cafeteria Kit* for school districts to use as a tool promoting healthful choices to grades K-5 students, school staff and parents. (2008)
- Funded peer education mini-grants to sixteen school districts (reaching 4,800 children) to support implementation of HealthierUS School Challenge criteria. (July 2007-June 08)
- In cooperation with Montana Action for Healthy Kids, provided training and technical support to school districts in adopting school wellness policies. (July 2007-ongoing)
- Surveyed principals on the use of a recess before lunch schedule to evaluate the benefits, challenges and facilitated factors for successful implementation.
- Developed and distributed 80 idea kits for National School Lunch Week (October 2007) and School Breakfast Week (March 2008).

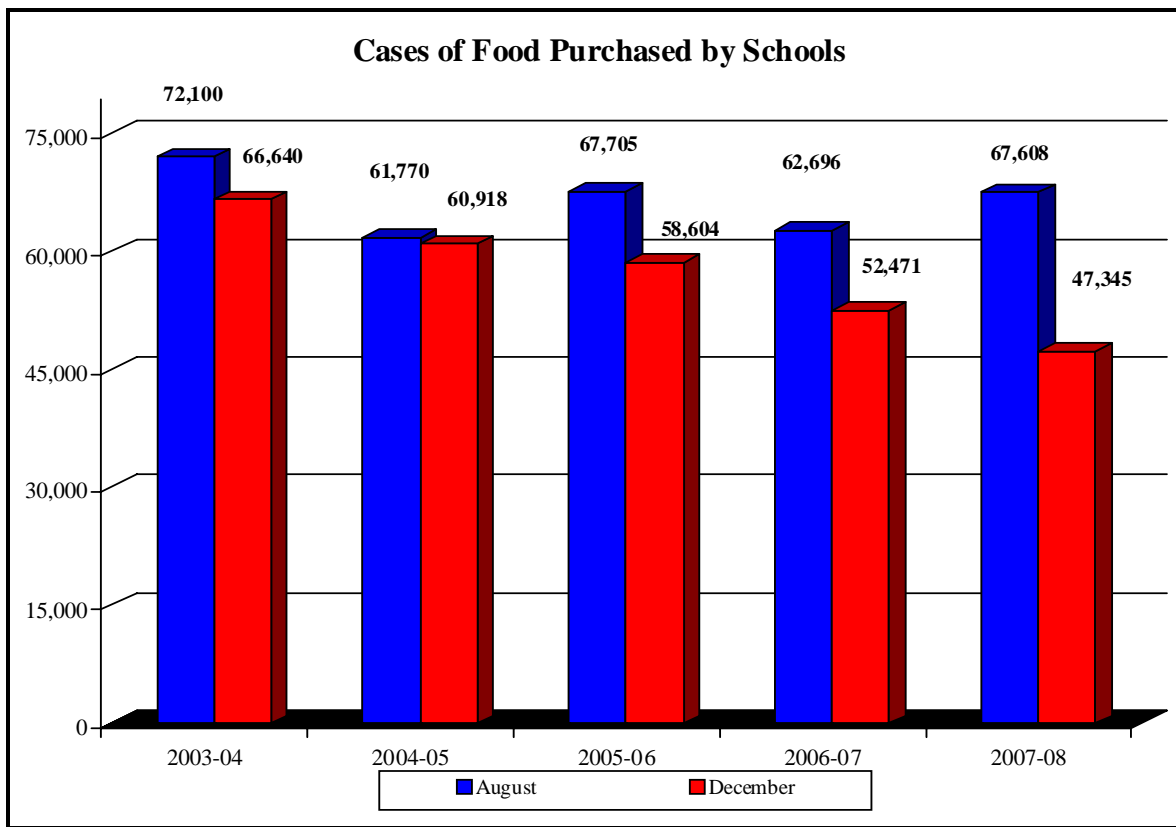
OPI Cooperative Purchase Program

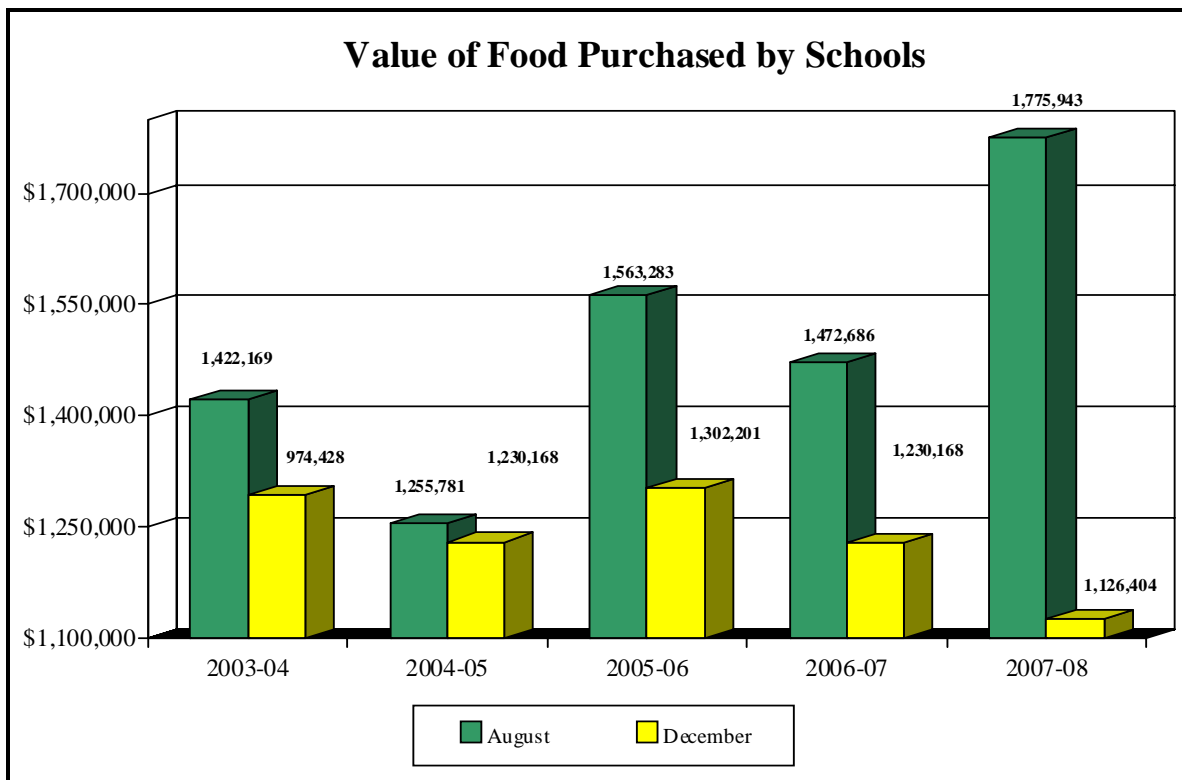
The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program was implemented in 1980 to assist schools in purchasing high-quality nutritious foods at reasonable prices. There are two bids a year (winter and spring) and four deliveries per bid for a total of eight food deliveries per year.

Through the Advisory for the Bid and Commodity (ABC) Committee, the items available through the bid are continuously revised and improved. The committee consists of state agency staff and 30 school food service personnel from schools representing various sizes and locations in the state.

Food items included on the bid must be appealing, nutritious and cost-effective. By combining purchase orders, all participating schools receive the high-quality, low-cost bid items at the same price regardless of size or location. Nutrition information for all products on the bid is provided to participating schools to assist with nutrient analysis of menus.

The program coordinator serves as a liaison between schools and food manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, and representatives. Purchasing assistance is offered to school personnel through daily telephone contact and regional or state training sessions. During the 2007-08 school year, Montana schools purchased 114,953 cases of food worth \$2,903,347.





Summary of Reporting Requirements

Verification

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that participate in the School Nutrition Programs provide free and reduced-price meal benefits to eligible students through collection and determination of free and reduced-price school meal applications. As a part of this responsibility, schools must verify a sample of the applications and report the results to the State Agency.

Only 14 (6%) LEAs had less than 80% response rate (meaning that more than 20% of the applicants selected for verification at their school did NOT respond by sending documents that show what they reported on their application was accurate). This verification data serves as the primary source of information on the accuracy of the eligibility determination process.

Sanitation Inspections

SFAs are required to have 2 sanitation inspections per year and report the actual number of inspections to the State Agency. Montana schools reported the following for the 2008 SY:

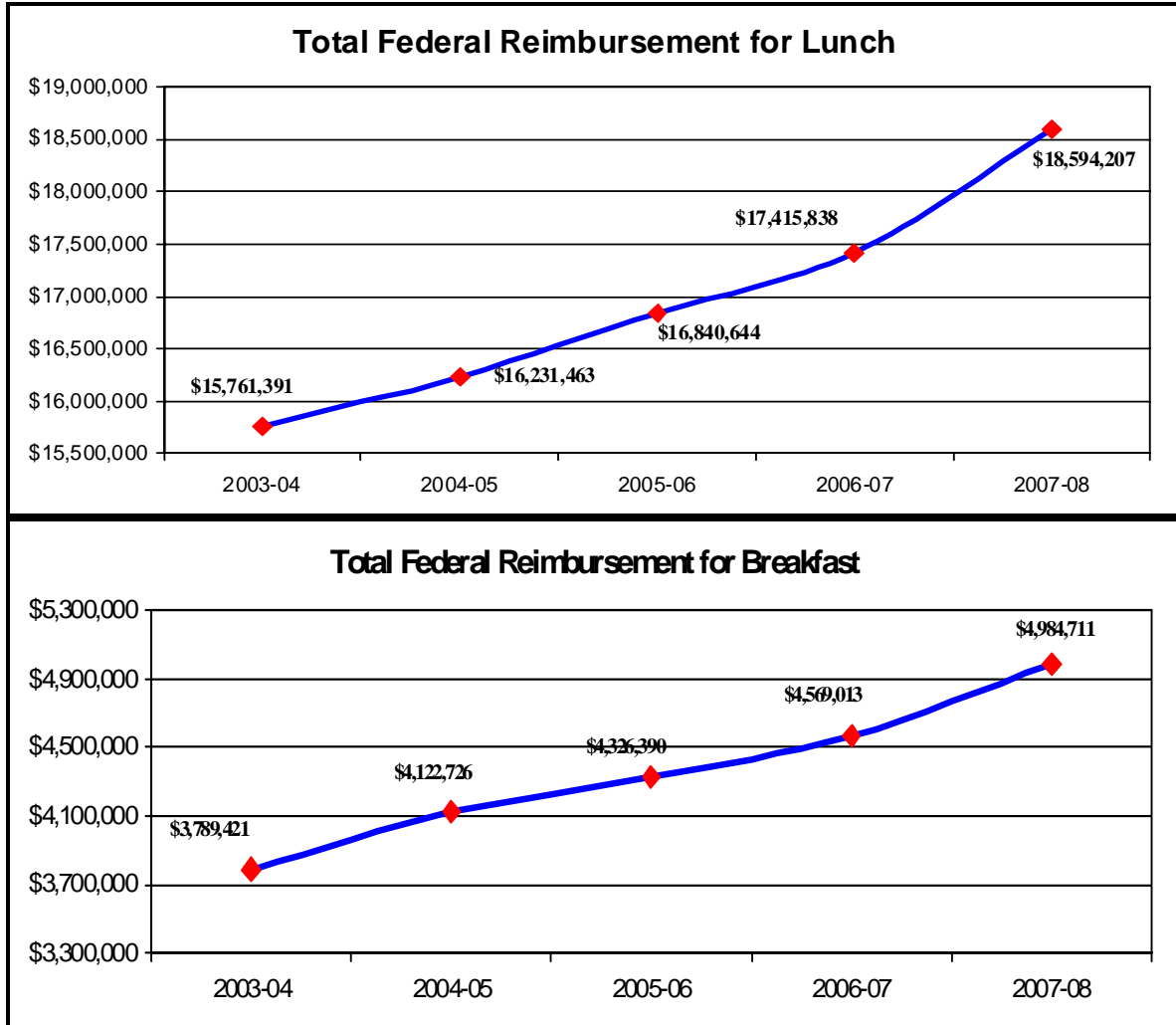
- Number of schools that had 0 inspections: 72 (9%)
- Number of schools that had 1 inspection: 297 (36%)
- Number of schools that had 2 inspections: 435 (53%)
- Number of schools that had 3 or more inspections: 2 (<1%)
- Number of schools that did not report inspections: 9 (1%)

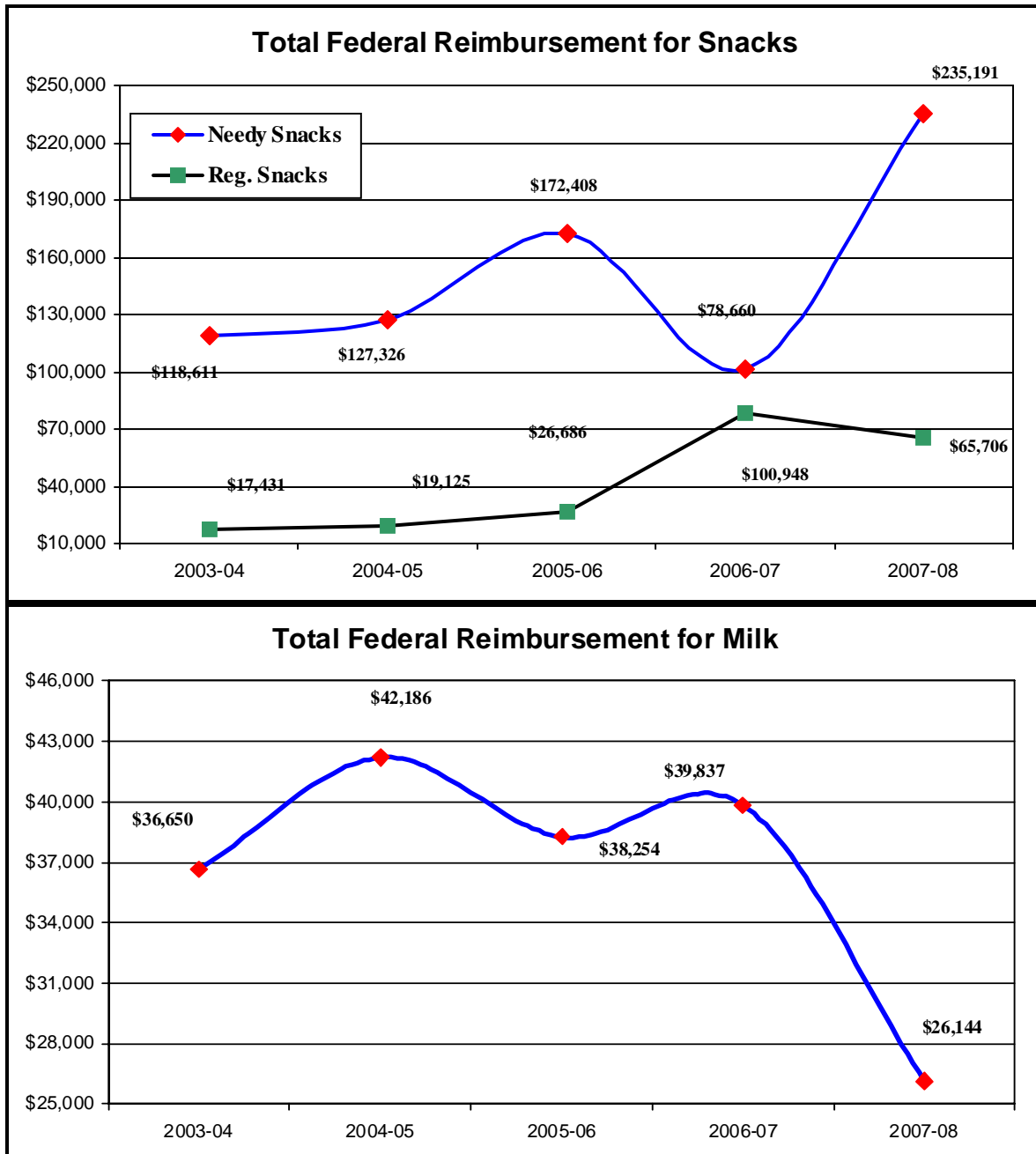
Federal Reimbursement Rates for 2007-08

SCHOOL PROGRAMS MEAL, SNACK AND MILK REIMBURSEMENT RATES Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof <i>Effective from July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 for School Programs</i> <i>Effective from January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008 for Summer Food Service Program</i>			
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM	Less than 60%		60% or more
Paid	0.23		0.25
Reduced Price	2.07		2.09
Free	2.47		2.49
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM	Non-severe Need		Severe Need
Paid	0.24		0.24
Reduced Price	1.05		1.31
Free	1.35		1.61
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM	All Milk	Paid Milk	Free Milk
Pricing Programs without free option	0.17	N/A	N/A
Pricing Programs with free option	N/A	0.17	Average cost per ½ pint of milk
Non-pricing programs	0.17	N/A	N/A
AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM			
Paid	0.06		
Reduced Price	0.34		
Free	0.68		
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	Operating	Administrative	
		High	Low
Breakfast	1.57	0.1575	0.1225
Lunch & Supper	2.75	0.2875	0.2375
Supplements (Snacks)	0.64	0.0775	0.0625

School Nutrition Programs Reimbursements

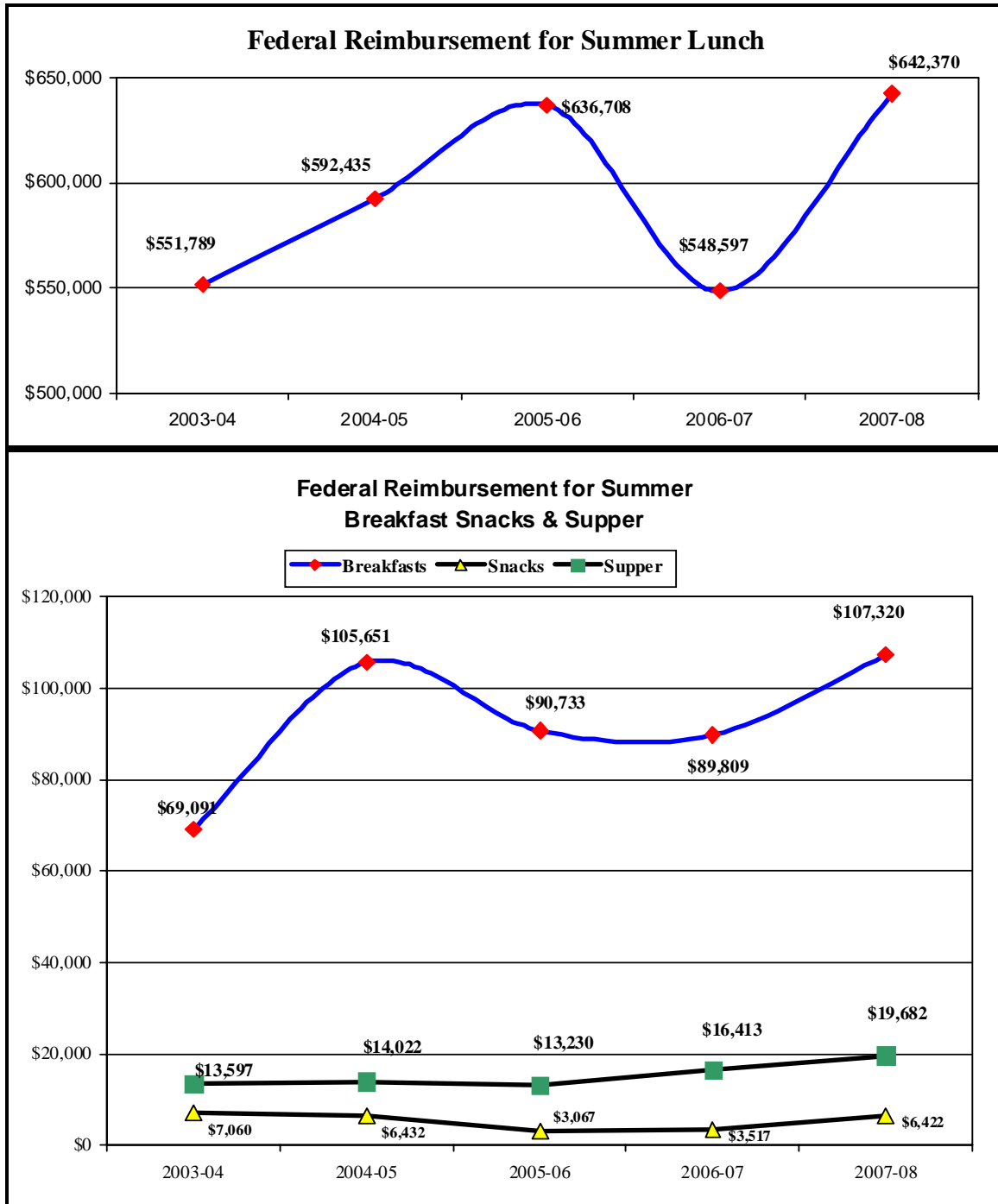
Total reimbursement paid to schools for meals served (lunch, breakfast, snacks, and milk) during the 2007-08 school year totaled \$23,905,959.





Summer Food Service Program Reimbursements

The total meal reimbursement (for lunch, breakfast, snacks, and supper) paid to summer sponsors in 2008 was \$775,796. Administrative reimbursement totaled \$80,342. Total reimbursement was \$856,138.



Financial Management

The USDA provides general assistance for every reimbursable meal served to children in school according to reimbursement rates that are updated yearly. School Food Authorities reported \$28,313,544 in program income (federal reimbursement and state matching funds) and \$54,031,222 in program expenditures during the 2007-08 school year. After subtracting federal reimbursement and state match, local support to the meal programs was \$25,087,905 or 46 percent of the total expenditures.

The State of Montana matched \$629,773 during the 2007-08 school year. The funds were used to cover the cost of shipping and handling, storage, and processing of USDA commodity foods.

FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN MONTANA	
<i>October 1, 2007- September 30, 2008</i>	
School Income from Federal Funds	
Reimbursement for National School Lunch Program Meals	\$18,594,207
Reimbursement for Afterschool Snacks	\$300,897
Reimbursement for National School Lunch Program (including Snacks)	\$18,895,104
Value of Regular Commodities	\$3,403,145
Value of Commodity Entitlement for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	\$138,774
Total Value of Commodities for lunch and snacks	\$3,541,919
National School Lunch Program (lunches, snacks and commodities)	\$22,437,023
School Breakfast Program	\$4,984,711
Special Milk Program	\$26,144
Reimbursement for Summer Food Service Program Meals and Snacks	\$775,796
Administrative Funds for Summer Food Service Program Sponsors	\$80,342
Total Value of Summer Food Service Program Commodities	\$9,528
Summer Food Service Program	\$865,666
Total Federal Funding	\$28,313,544
School Income from State Matching Funds	
Total State Matching Funds (July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007)	\$629,773
School Expenditures	
Total School Expenditures (Food, Labor, Other)	(\$54,031,222)
Total Federal Funding	\$28,313,544
Total State Funding	\$629,773
Total School Expenditures	(\$54,031,222)
BALANCE (Student/adult payments, general fund, & other sources)	\$25,087,905